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SUBJECT: NIGERIA RESPONDS TO DEMARCHE ON G-4 RESOLUTION
ON UN REFORM, SEEKS U.S. SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT UNSC
SEAT

REF: STATE 126870

1. (U) On the morning of July 11 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Abuja, Acting DCM delivered reftel demarche on UN reform to Ambassador Chike Alex Anigbo, Director of the First United Nations Department of the MFA. Poloff served as notetaker.

2. (SBU) A/DCM delivered reftel talking points to Anigbo. Anigbo responded that he was sure the U.S. was aware of the unanimous African Union (AU) summit decision to seek two permanent and five non-permanent UN Security Council (UNSC) seats for Africa. Anigbo said he was aware that since UNSC membership is a global matter, there will still be extensive consultations on the matter. He acknowledged that the U.S. has announced support only for Japan's UNSC candidacy, but hoped Nigeria could count on the U.S.'s support. He suggested that other countries might lobby the U.S. on behalf of Nigeria's candidacy, although Nigeria had thought the U.S. would lobby other countries on Nigeria's behalf.

3. (SBU) Anigbo expressed some agreement with our talking points, saying that the AU does not recognize the G-4 because the group does not represent any region. The AU is taking a strong regional position and will negotiate reciprocal support with other regions, he said, adding, "Africa is the only region that speaks with one voice." Until the AU says otherwise, "our one voice is calling for two permanent and five non-permanent seats" on the UNSC.

4. (SBU) When A/DCM repeated the message that the G-4 resolution was flawed, Anigbo said it was unlikely to pass because of the "coffee club:" a group of "spoilers" that opposed the G-4. He listed some examples: South Korea and China will never accept Japan's candidacy, Italy and Spain will oppose Germany, Pakistan will oppose India, and Argentina and Mexico will oppose Brazil. The "coffee club," he said, was so named because "they meet like in a coffee shop and talk." The group of countries had been known as "United for Consensus" and had included African countries, but in the wake of the AU decision, no African countries were still in the group, he explained.

5. (SBU) A/DCM also informed Anigbo that Secretary Rice would participate in part of the AGOA Forum in Dakar, Senegal. Anigbo confirmed that the GON's Minister of Commerce would attend, and said the President might attend, but he was not sure.

CAMPBELL